

LISTING OF AND AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims, without prejudice, as follows:

Claims 1 - 30 (Canceled)

Claim 31. (Currently amended) An adjustable interlocking iliac crest belt assembly for In
a body brace ~~appliance of the type~~ having at least a first back element ¹³ shaped to fit about a
person's lower back region, ~~the improvement~~ comprising:

~~an iliac crest belt element attachable to an inner surface of the first back element, the belt~~
~~comprising an elongated strip~~ ³⁰² formed from a substantially rigid material:

~~said elongated strip~~ ³⁰² having a center portion ³⁰³ and at least first and second ends ³⁰⁴ ~~;~~ ³⁰⁵

locking elements for adjusting the fit of and locking said adjustable interlocking iliac
crest belt assembly about the waist of the person, said locking elements being disposed in
corresponding locations on said first and second ends, respectively, of said elongated strip; ³⁰⁴ ³⁰⁵ ³⁰²

said center portion ³⁰³ including means for fastening said adjustable interlocking iliac
crest belt assembly to (the first back element); ³⁰¹ (ante)

the said elongated strip being sized and shaped so as to encircle the waist of the person
with an adjustable circumference and tension, with the said center portion positioned
substantially against the lumbar spinal region of the back of the person and said first and
second ends positioned against the front of the person when said adjustable interlocking iliac
crest belt assembly is locked about the waist of the person,

the said elongated strip including at least a first portion being further sized and shaped to
urge against engage the iliac crests of the person when said adjustable interlocking iliac crest
belt assembly is locked about the waist of the person.,

Claim 32. (Currently amended) The adjustable interlocking iliac crest belt assembly of
claim 31 further comprising ~~locking elements for adjusting the fit of the belt about the waist~~
~~of the person and for locking the belt about the waist of the person~~ iliac crest pads attached to
the inner surface of said elongated strip adjacent said center portion thereof.

Claim 33. (Currently amended) The adjustable interlocking iliac crest belt assembly of
claim 31 32 wherein the said locking elements include cooperating buckle and buckle-

receiving elements disposed in corresponding locations on the said first and second ends, respectively.

Claim 34. (Currently amended) The adjustable interlocking iliac crest belt assembly of claim 31 32 wherein ~~the~~ said locking elements include buckle and hook-and-loop elements disposed in corresponding locations on the said first and second ends, respectively.

Claim 35. (Currently amended) The adjustable interlocking iliac crest belt assembly of claim 31 32 wherein ~~the~~ said locking elements include cooperating hook and loop fastening elements disposed in corresponding locations on the said first and second ends, respectively; ~~so as to interlock.~~

Claim 36. (Canceled)

3
Claim 37. (Currently amended) The adjustable interlocking iliac crest belt assembly of claim 31 36 wherein ~~the~~ said substantially rigid material forming said elongated strip is ~~constructed from a plastic.~~

Claim 38. (Currently amended) The adjustable interlocking iliac crest belt assembly of claim 37 wherein ~~the strip is constructed from~~ said plastic is a low density plastic.

Claim 39. (Currently amended) The adjustable interlocking iliac crest belt assembly of claim 38 wherein ~~the strip is constructed from~~ said low density plastic is polyethylene.

Claim 40. (Currently amended) The adjustable interlocking iliac crest belt assembly of claim 31 39 wherein ~~the~~ said elongated strip further comprises an inner layer of relatively compressible material, ~~and an outer layer of~~ attached to said substantially rigid material.

→ Claim 41. (Currently amended) The adjustable interlocking iliac crest belt assembly of claim 31 35 ~~further comprising wherein~~ said fastening elements for means is operative to removably fastening ~~the~~ said adjustable interlocking iliac crest belt assembly to the first back element.

Claim 42. (Currently amended) The adjustable interlocking iliac crest belt assembly of claim 41 wherein ~~the said removable fastening elements are~~ means comprises screws.

→ Claim 43. (Currently amended) The adjustable interlocking iliac crest belt assembly of claim ~~31~~ ⁴⁰ ~~40 further comprising wherein said fastening elements for is operative to~~ ^{//} non-removably fastening the said adjustable interlocking iliac crest belt assembly to the first back element.

{ Claim 44. (Currently amended) The adjustable interlocking iliac crest belt assembly of claim 43 wherein ~~the said non-removable fastening elements are~~ means comprises rivets.

Claim 45. (Canceled)

C3 Claim 46. (Canceled)

→ Claim 47. (Currently Amended) A body brace comprising:

at least a first back ¹³ shell element having an inner surface shaped to fit about a person's lower back region, said back shell being constructed of a substantially rigid plastic material;
an adjustable interlocking iliac crest belt assembly element attachable to an inner surface of the first back element, the belt comprising an elongated strip having a center portion and at least first and second ends, said elongated strip being formed from a substantially rigid material;

locking elements for adjusting the fit of and locking said adjustable interlocking iliac crest belt assembly about the waist of the person, said locking elements being disposed in corresponding locations on said first and second ends, respectively, of said elongated strip;

said center portion including means for fastening said adjustable interlocking iliac crest belt assembly to said inner surface of said first back element;

the said elongated strip being sized and shaped so as to encircle the waist of the person with an adjustable circumference and tension, with the said center portion positioned substantially against the lumbar spinal region of the back of the person and said first and

second ends positioned against the front of the person when said adjustable interlocking iliac crest belt assembly is locked about the waist of the person;

the said elongated strip including at least a first portion sized and shaped to urge against engage the iliac crests of the person when said adjustable interlocking iliac crest belt assembly is locked about the waist of the person.

Claim 48. (Currently Amended) The brace of claim 47 further comprising ~~locking elements for adjusting the fit of the belt about the waist of the person and locking the belt about the waist of the person~~ iliac crest pads attached to the inner surface of said elongated strip adjacent said center portion thereof.

Claim 49. (Currently Amended) The brace of claim ~~47~~ 48 wherein the said locking elements include cooperating buckle and buckle-receiving elements disposed in corresponding locations on the said first and second ends, respectively.

3
Claim 50. (Currently Amended) The brace of claim ~~47~~ 49 wherein the said locking elements include buckle and hook-and-loop elements disposed in corresponding locations on the said first and second ends, respectively.

Claim 51. (Currently Amended) The brace of claim ~~47~~ 49 wherein the said locking elements include cooperating hook and loop fastening elements disposed in corresponding locations on the said first and second ends, respectively, ~~so as to interlock.~~

Claim 52. (Canceled)

Claim 53. (Currently Amended) The brace of claim ~~47~~ 52 wherein the said elongated strip is ~~constructed from a plastic.~~

Claim 54. (Currently Amended) The brace of claim 53 wherein ~~the strip is constructed from said plastic~~ is a low density plastic.

Claim 55. (Currently Amended) The brace of claim 54 wherein ~~the strip is constructed from~~ said low density plastic is polyethylene.

Claim 56. (Currently Amended) The brace of claim 55 wherein ~~the said elongated strip further~~ comprises an inner layer of relatively compressible material, and an outer layer of attached to said substantially rigid material.

Claim 57. (Currently Amended) The brace of claim 47 ~~51 further comprising wherein said fastening elements is operative to for~~ removably fastening the said adjustable interlocking iliac crest belt assembly to the said first back shell element.

Claim 58. (Currently Amended) The brace of claim 57 wherein ~~the said removable fastening elements are~~ means comprises screws.

03 / Claim 59. (Currently Amended) The brace of claim of 47 ~~51 further comprising wherein said fastening elements for~~ means is operative to non-removably fastening the said adjustable interlocking iliac crest belt assembly to the said first back shell element.

Claim 60. (Currently Amended) The brace of claim 59 wherein ~~the said non-removable fastening elements are~~ means comprises rivets.

Claim 61. (Canceled)

Claim 62. (Currently Amended) The brace of claim 51 wherein ~~the said adjustable interlocking iliac crest belt assembly interlocks with the said first back shell element so as to~~ impart additional stabilizing force to the back element.